(e) The key to reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export Promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include simplification of Export Import Policy and procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation, efforts to actively involve the State Governments in export promotion. Export promotion is a continuing activity based on interaction with industry, trade and other promotional institutions.

Restructuring of Indian Coal Industry

1007. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned 500 million dollars and International Development Agency 63 million dollars investment loan for restructuring of the Indian Coal Industry;

(b) the details of the restructuring envisaged by the Government; and

(c) the plans of utilisation of this investment loan by India in terms of projects and their completion dates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The World Bank has approved an IDA Credit of 43.3 million SDR (US $ 63 million) for Coal Sector Environmental and Social Mitigation Project of Coal India Limited (CIL). The project inter-alia envisages carrying out Environment Action Plans, Rehabilitation Action Plans, etc. at 25 identified coal projects of CIL. The loan will be received on quarterly basis over five-year period starting July 23, 1996.

Targets fixed under the Prime Minister's Employment Scheme

1008. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments and Union Territories have embarked upon a scheme to provide employment under Prime Minister's Employment Scheme;

(b) if so, the targets fixed thereunder;

(c) whether the State Governments and the Union Territories have called for applications from the people in their respective States/ Union Territories; and

(d) if so, the number of people who have applied under the scheme and how many of them have been provided with employment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana a target of assistance to 7 lakh educated unemployed youth for self employment ventures was fixed for the last 4 years of VIII Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) States/U.Ts normally call for applications. Since 1993-94 to 1996-97 (upto Sept., 96) 25,96,798 people have applied for loan under the scheme. Loans have been sanctioned in 5,76,041 cases, and disbursed in 3,50,957 cases. Sample studies conducted have shown that an enterprise, when it becomes operational provides employment on an average to 2 persons under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

Enlargement in the scope and functions of FIPB

1009. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed a major enlargement in the scope and functions of a restricted Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB);

(b) if so, whether the Cabinet has approved reforming of FIPB;

(c) if so, the main proposals regarding its functioning; and

(d) by what time a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Government have recently on 11.7.96, with the approval of the Cabinet, re-constituted the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). FIPB has been re-constituted with a view to promote the inflow of foreign direct investment in India—(i) by undertaking investment promotion activities and (ii) through

facilitating investment in the country by international companies, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and other foreign investments and to ensure expeditious clearance of the proposals for foreign investment.

Market share of sail in crude steel production

1010. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the market share of SAIL out of the total crude steel production in the country; and

(b) the steps taken to modernise Steel Authority of India Limited to get better improved production with cost reduction?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Out of a total production of 21.942 million tonne of Crude Steel in the country during the year 1995-96, SAIL including IISCO has produced 10.637 million tonne.

(b) SAIL has undertaken modernisation of its three existing integrated steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro with the objectives of Technological Upgradation, attaining higher productivity, economy in cost of production, energy conservation, improvements of yield and reduction of environmental pollution. The steps to modernise inter-alia involve phasing out of Open Hearth Furnaces, introduction of latest BOF technology, adoption of continuous casting in place of ingot route, improvement in productivity by restoration of health of plants and equipment and optimum utilisation of capacity, etc.

Workshop on the role of wholesale markets for Urban Food Distribution System in Asia

1011. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some four day workshop on "the role of wholesale markets for urban food distribution system in Asia" was organised at New Delhi in recent past;

(b) if so, details thereof with the background;

(c) whether some suggestions for efficient marketing promotion of agricultural produce in Asia and Pacific were given in the workshop;

(d) whether some decisions to channelise the agricultural surpluses were also taken in the workshop; and

(e) if so, steps proposed to be taken to implement the suggestions as well as decisions?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. A workshop was organised at Surajkund near Delhi.

(b) The Association of Food Marketing Agencies in Asia and the Pacific (AFMA), an institution sponsored by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), approached Food Corporation of India for holding the Workshop in India with a view to share the experiences in 13 AFMA countries on the role of wholesale markets for urban food distribution system. The Workshop consisted of presentation of case study papers, technical sessions and field trips for inter-action of experiences in the member countries.

(c) to (e) The Workshop made certain general recommendations.

Excavation of diamond mines in Madhya Pradesh

1012. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that global tenders had been floated by Government of Madhya Pradesh for excavating diamond from Deobhog and other mines in Raipur district;

(b) if so, the details of the applicants thereto and modus operandi of short listing the applications;

(c) whether it is a fact that NMDC and MMTC have not been included in the last three concerns selected for final allotment; and